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JAMES B. MILES.

The donation, by his widow, of a fine likeness of our honored predecessor, Dr. Miles, recalls the sad suddenness of his death at Worcester, Mass., Nov. 13, 1875, after three unprecedentedly successful visits to Europe, and while he with Elihu Burritt was planning a vigorous peace campaign in America. He was ill but two days. It will be gratifying to his many friends to know that God has been gracious to his family, as we learned at a recent pleasant visit at their home in Brookline, near Boston. He left a wife, one son and one daughter. Soon after Dr. Miles' death, his college classmate and friend, Rev. F. W. Fiske, D.D., of Chicago, published a notice in the *Advance*, of which the following is a part.

"Dr. Miles was born in Rutland, Mass., in 1823, and was graduated at Yale College in 1849. He was ordained and installed as pastor of the First Church in Charlestown, Mass., in 1855. In his pastorate of seventeen years over this ancient and influential church, he labored with marked fidelity and success, sending his influence beyond the limits of his congregation, and rendering efficient service in every good cause. In 1866-67 he was chaplain of the Senate of Massachusetts. On the decease of Dr. Beckwith, he was chosen to fill his place as Secretary of the American Peace Society.

"Dr. Miles entered on his new duties with great hope and enthusiasm. He fully believed in the aims and methods of the Society, and threw his whole heart and energies into the work. It was largely through his instrumentality that the Peace Conferences in Europe were held, and he took an active part in organizing the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Laws of Nations. He came home from the meeting at the Hague greatly encouraged, and was about to address himself with renewed energy to his work, when the Master called him hence."

Dr. Miles was Secretary of the American Peace Society four and a half years, 1871-75. He also acted as Secretary of the "Association for the Codification of the Laws of Nations," and in the interest of the two societies, devoted substantially to the same object, he crossed the ocean six times, held interviews with the chief statesmen and publicists of Europe, addressed meetings in Italy, France and England, and during the intervals spent in America, he organized and, together with other eminent speakers, addressed meetings in all the principal cities of the United States. Chicago had been districted for meetings which he had agreed to address at the time of his lamented death. The great point of public interest in those years was the recent triumph of Arbitration at Geneva between this country and England.

The death of Dr. Miles not only called out tributes to his personal ability and worth, but also was the occasion of earnest commendation of the cause in the service of which he lived and died. The following editorial from the *Advance* of November 25, 1875, is as true to-day as when it was written. It was evidently written by the present able editor of the same paper, Rev. Simeon Gilbert, D.D.

"The recent death of Rev. Dr. J. B. Miles, Secretary of the American Peace Society, and General Secretary of the International Association for the Codification of International Laws, is a positive loss to a great movement, one of the greatest which the Christian philanthropy of our

time is called upon to reinforce. But the loss would be a more serious one if it were not for the fact that, by his death, the fresh attention of so many will be turned to the consideration of the cause to which he had, with so deep an enthusiasm, given his life.

"To say that the present system of warfare, with its infinite barbarisms, burdens and waste, is to continue always, is to contradict the whole tenor of Divine prophecy, and to disregard the certain drift and growing potency of public sentiment against it. It is not twenty years since the overthrow of the barbarism of the American system of slavery seemed impossible; but the improbable soon happened. Duelling, which is simply the barbarism of warfare on a small scale, was only a few years ago in full vogue. To defy the 'code of honor,' was a severe test of one's moral courage. Already the brutality of the 'code' is admitted, and the institution has dropped into the same pit of public abhorrence with the brutalities of the prize ring. These 'woes' are past; others like them must go the same way. Many of the most savage customs and usages of warfare have already been modified, under the influence of humaner sentiments demanding it. The next point of attack in the inevitable march of Christian ideas will be the war system itself. All the great European nations are being crushed and strangled by it. The experiments of international arbitration in cases of grave dispute, as in the peaceful settlement of the Alabama claims, have now been numerous enough to show the practicability and incalculable advantages of such rational and humane adjustments. Resort to the arbitrament of war is seen to be not the only alternative. The absence, hitherto, of anything like a well systematized and authoritative statement of the laws and usages by which modern nations are prepared to be governed, has been, it is true, a great hindrance to the cause. But that hindrance is being overcome. A most important beginning at least has been made, especially by those international congresses, held during the past few years, and attended by numbers of the most eminent jurists and statesmen of our time. To say that their deliberations and conclusions have not the force of any official authority is nothing to the point. Ideas are mightier than thrones. The results of these congresses have just so much weight as there is weight in the reasons for them, have just the same force and assurance of prevailing as justice and truth itself. And it is in the promotion of these conferences of jurists and statesmen that the labors of the late Dr. Miles have been crowned with the most distinguished results for good. The war system of Europe was never so monstrous in its proportions as now; but then the wave is always biggest just before it breaks."

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION IN OHIO.

Hon. J. M. Barrett, of the Ohio State Senate, sends us several copies of an excellent "Joint Resolution" now pending in the Ohio Legislature in favor of concluding a treaty of Arbitration with Great Britain, with a request that similar resolutions be introduced into the Massachusetts and other New England Legislatures. We write him that a Resolution having the same general objects was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature on the petition of the American Peace Society and others in 1887. But we rejoice that Ohio is swinging into line and are happy to comply with his request.